

Community, Past, Present & Future



Family History Newsletter

November 2025

The Family History Newsletter is a publication of the Maple Ridge Historical Society

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The Family History group supports members with their family history research.

Members have ancestors from around the globe. We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we live, work, and play is the traditional and unceded territory of the Katzie First Nation and the Kwantlen First Nation Peoples.

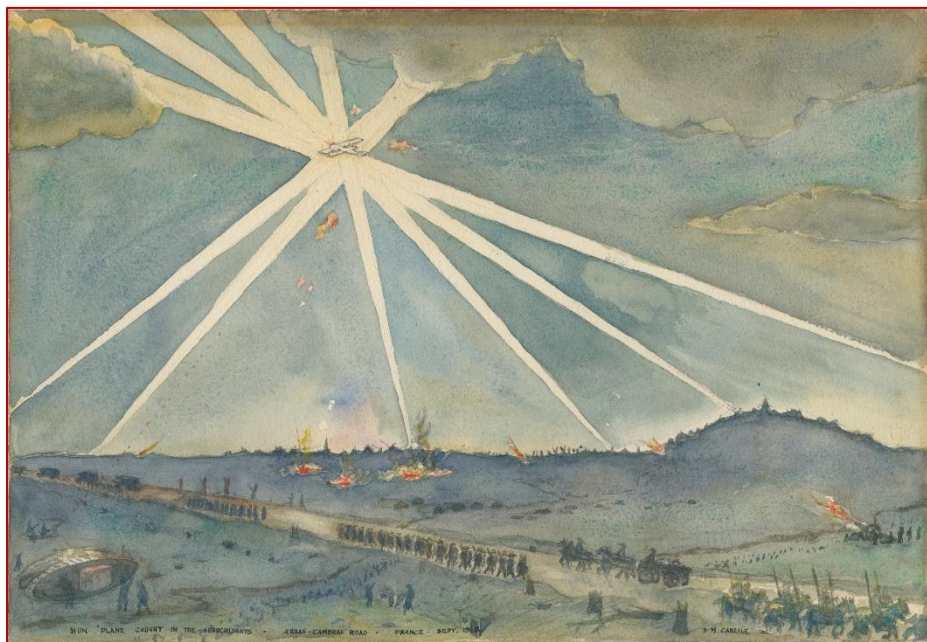
We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM PST.

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Caught in the Searchlights

By Meaghan Durupt



Plane Caught in Searchlights — Arras-Cambrai Road — France — Sept 1918.

PAINTED BY DAVID M. CARLILE, BEAVERBROOK COLLECTION OF WAR ART, CWM 19880007-002

A couple of years ago I did a small project in an attempt to win the Beaverbrook Vimy Prize. I had to choose a painting from the Canadian War Museum's war art collection and write a small essay about this painting. One painting caught my attention as I was scrolling through the Beaverbrook Collection of War Art *Caught in Searchlights* by David McAusland Carlile. It grabbed my focus as it was so different from the other paintings I was scrolling past. A lot of the paintings were, understandably, dark and dreary. However, this painting had bright white lights painted into it. I was drawn to it because it was so strikingly different.

Despite not needing to for the essay I was writing, I decided that I needed to research the painter to get a better understanding of who he was and what his story might be. Unfortunately, every Google search turned up the same two sentences about the painting, so I turned to genealogy databases. When I started on my journey to research this man, all I had was his name but due to the nature of the project I also knew that he was in the Canadian military. I summoned my mother, Andrea Lister, to help me with my research and we dove right in.

We started by finding his military attestation record. This document contained his mother's address, his birthdate and birthplace. Due to having his middle name and his full name being distinct, especially in Canada, we were fairly confident this was our guy. From there we found his full military record of 47 pages.¹ These documents contained physical descriptions, medical and dental records, payment record, discharge papers, and more. From these documents we were able to find him in a couple of census records and piece together a picture of his life.

David McAusland Carlile was born in Paisley, Scotland 2 February 1885. He was a graduate of the Glasgow School of Art and was working as an architect in Montreal when he enlisted on 15 April 1915. Carlile was 30 years old at the time he enlisted with the Royal Highlanders of Canada, 42nd Battalion, CEF, 1.70 meters (5 feet 8 inches) tall, 64.8 kilograms (143 pounds), with a fair complexion, light brown hair and blue eyes. He listed his mother, Helen Carlile, in Paisley as his next of kin.

The 42nd Battalion disembarked in England, on 19 June 1915 and following a summer of training, arrived in France on 9 September 1915. Carlile was a private that participated in some of the most horrible and grueling battles of the First World War such as the Battle of the Somme, the Battle of Vimy Ridge, and the Battle of Passchendaele. When this painting was made, Carlile would have already fought in the Battles of Mount Sorrel, Somme, Flers-Courcelette, and Ancre Heights. *Caught in Searchlights* captured the moment when a German observation plane, caught in six searchlights, is fired at by multiple anti-aircraft guns on the ground. This scene occurred along the Arras-Cambrai Road in September 1918. The Battle of Arras was a significant win for the Canadian forces. In the late hours of 10 November 1918 the 42nd Battalion Royal Highlanders of Canada, 3rd Canadian Division, Canadian Expeditionary Force, liberated the town of Mons, Belgium ending four and a half years of German occupation. The 42nd Battalion Pipe Band played through the city into the Grande Place announcing to its citizens that they had been liberated.



42nd Battalion marching through the Grand Place, Mons, on the morning of 11 November 1918.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA. MIKAN No. 3522363

Carlile was demobilized 17 March 1919 and married Janet Barr Moodie in Montreal the 24 October 1919.² By the 1931 census, David and Janet have 3 children.³

He attended annual reunions of the 42nd Battalion, Signal Section and he continued to paint.⁴ His works were part of a "Meritorious Work at Spring Exhibit" of the Art Association of Montreal noted in the 28 March 1924 *Montreal Gazette*.

He died in Montreal 4 December 1970, "beloved husband of Janet Barr Moodie, dear father of James, Thomas and Sheila...grandfather of Heather, Scott, Brent, Drew, David, Kelly and Sean."⁵



Carlile is named on the Glasgow School of Art Roll of Honour unveiled in 1924.

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUMS © KAREN MITCHELL (WMR-70719)

¹ "Personnel Records of the First World War," database with images, Library and Archives Canada (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/home/record?app=pffww&idnumber=87749&ecopy=009620a>; accessed 10 April 2024); RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1491 - 13.

² Ancestry.com. Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968 [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2008.

³ Library and Archives Canada; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; Seventh Census of Canada, 1931; Folder Number: T-27245; Census Place: Maisonneuve, Quebec, Canada; Page Number: 14.

⁴ "Ex-Service Men at Reunion." *Montreal Gazette*. 17 November 1924, 3.

⁵ The Gazette. Sat, Dec 05, 1970 -Page 40

Further Reading

"Historical Background: 11 November 1918 - Mons, Belgium."

Return to MONS.

<https://mons2018.blackwatchcanada.com/mission/historical-background>

"42nd Battalion (Royal Highlanders of Canada) in the Great War." Canadian Expeditionary Force Research Group.

<https://cefrg.ca/42nd-battalion-royal-highlanders-of-canada/>.

Finding Soldier Photos

Recently, there have been a number of queries from individuals looking for official First World War and Second World War photos of individual soldiers.

Unfortunately, individual photographs were not taken of the soldiers. Some units had panoramic photos taken of the battalion, other units went further with company or platoon photos or even individual photos of the men in the unit before sailing. The best places to look for photographs are family records and local newspapers.

For the Second World War, requesting a copy of his service record from Library and Archives Canada may result in a photograph. In September of 1942 Identification Cards were issued bearing a photograph and fingerprint. The new cards were issued to all military and civilian personnel in the employ of the Department of National Defence. The Royal Canadian Air Force files are the exception, they usually contain a photo.

Library and Archives Canada Collections

Use Collection Search to the Canadian War Records Office Photographic collection (RG150).

- First World War Personnel Records database: <https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/help/pffww>
- Personnel records of the Second World War: www.canada.ca/en/library-archives/collection/research-help/military-history/second-world-war/personnel-records-second-world-war.html
- War Diaries of the First World War: <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/Pages/war-diaries.aspx>
- Military abbreviations used in service files: <https://www.canada.ca/en/library-archives/collection/research-help/military-history/military-abbreviations.html>
- South African War, 1899-1902 – Service Files, Medals and Land Applications: <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/south-african-war-1899-1902/Pages/search.aspx>

Collaborate to Tell the Story

By Brenda L. Smith

Family historians have fuelled a boom in the accessibility of indexes and original documents, carrying the study of ancestral heritage beyond the purview of academics. Collaboration in the forms of shared family research and community projects is a hallmark of our practice.

Maple Ridge Family History Group has been a standing committee of the Maple Ridge Historical Society since 1999. We have always been a resource for anyone interested in research methodology, and we engage in building the story of our local area. The Maple Ridge Museum and Community Archives receive questions and sometimes pass them on to us. And we invite questions through our contact page, at meetings, and through members.

The people who contact us are sometimes adding to the knowledge base, contributing amendments to available information, or asking questions that help us develop new windows on our shared story. From time to time, we help locate lost relatives.

The *Hammond Brothers: Shaping the Landscape* was a project that resulted in a visit from English descendants of the Hammond family. We spent a day sharing stories and documents, and visiting sites related to the lives that John and William Hammond lived in Maple Ridge. Since then, the visitors have helped one of our members by sending pictures of a former family home in England.

Projects have grown from these contacts. You can read about one that led Gina Leigh to research and arrange markers for military veterans in Maple Ridge Cemetery. You can read that story in the September 2018 issue of *Maple Ridge Family History Newsletter*.

The contact form on the Maple Ridge Museum and Community Archives site was used by a descendant of William Ansell, Reeve of Maple Ridge in 1907, and again 1917–1921. We were able to update *On the River: The Fishing Industry in Maple Ridge*, given family documents that helped expand our knowledge of this settler family.

We were contacted by a researcher who generously shared information about the brothers of Private William Maurice Davin, profiled in *Honouring Those Who Served*, our ongoing community history project that started with the fallen First World War soldiers on the Maple Ridge Cenotaph.

More recently, the museum staff sent on a query about the Maple Ridge Cenotaph, opening another window on Phase I of *Honouring Those Who Served*. The query:

I'm working on a project about the Cenotaph at Memorial Peace Park. I was wondering if there's a way to find out if there were any Indigenous Peoples that fought in WWI and are not named on the monument.

Our response:

Our project has done detailed work on the 51 casualties of the First World War who are named on the Maple Ridge Cenotaph and other local memorials....Also we have a database of about 150 other Maple Ridge participants in that conflict. They are waiting for further research. The project has been organized to reflect connections to our geographic area and types of service rather than ethnicity....

Our research team has worked on your question and we have some ideas for you. If you have had a look at the Honouring Those Who Served web pages on the museum website, you may have seen the history of the Maple Ridge Cenotaph. You can see how the names of war dead were originally requested by community members. Names have been added from time to time since 1923.

Our project, so far, includes only those names of soldiers dying in the First World War. For more information, you might want to visit... [we offered a selection of sources listed below.]

The Family History Group thanks everyone who has expressed interest in the historic record, and we invite you to send your queries and contributions about the Maple Ridge story to mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com

Further reading

"Community History Projects." Maple Ridge Family History Group. www.mapleridgemuseum.org/community-history-projects/

For Kwantlen information: Salashan Place by the River, Fort Langley. www.tol.ca/en/salishanplace.aspx

"Last Post Fund, Unmarked Graves Program." Maple Ridge Family History Newsletter. www.mapleridgemuseum.org/family-history-newsletters/

Library and Archives Canada. Military History. www.canada.ca/en/library-archives/collection/research-help/military-history.html

Stó:lō Resource and Research Management. www.srrmcentre.com

Veterans Affairs Canada: Mr. Yann Castelnot.

www.veterans.gc.ca/en/about-vac/who-we-are/department-officials/minister/minister-veterans-affairs-commendation/mr-yann-castelnot

Family History Group News

A space to share news about our members and their projects.

Honouring Those Who Served

<https://mapleridgemuseum.org/honouring-those-who-served/>

The Maple Ridge Family History Group's 2024 community history project *Honouring Those Who Served* continues to find new audiences. Private Clifford Edward Powers's profile was recently posted to various Facebook groups including the *Canadian Expeditionary Force Research Group* and shared with *Canadian Armed Forces Veterans / Media*, and "The People's Memorial" *Poppy of Honour Memorial Group*.

Chris Hay & The Stanley Park Rock Garden

www.facebook.com/100075941875611/posts/inspired-by-the-past/666827942525262/

THPM Landscaping Hedge Maintenance and Tree Services out of Campbell River shared a post on their Facebook page about the "roots of landscaping and gardening, where ancient techniques still shape the world we see." They are inspired by the past, including the first public garden in Vancouver, the Stanley Park Rock Garden. The garden was laid out in 1911 by master gardener John Montgomery.

Chris Hay, great grandson of John Montgomery, rediscovered the rock garden and after years of research and lobbying, the Stanley Park Rock Garden was recognized as one of Vancouver "Places that Matter," added to the Vancouver City Heritage Register, and listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places. Chris's work to tell the story of John Montgomery and the Stanley Park Rock Garden continues to inspire others.

Andrea Lister, wins Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia Susan Hill Writing Contest

https://novascotiaancestors.ca/upload/files/newsletters/GANS-The_Living_Connection-Sep-Oct-2025-Vol_11_Nos-09-10.pdf

The Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia is pleased to announce this year's winner of their Susan Hill Writing Contest is Andrea Lister, with her cleverly-titled submission, "A Wolfe in DeWolfe Clothing." The Annual Writing Competition is aimed at recognizing unpublished genealogical essays about Nova Scotia. The winning essay is published in a forthcoming issue of *The Nova Scotia Genealogist* journal.

Technology Tips: EBIC

By Andrea Lister

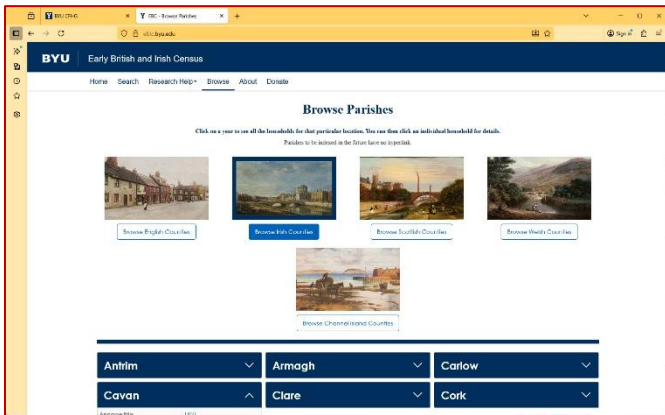
<https://ebic.byu.edu/>

The Early British & Irish Census Project (EBIC) brings the numerous disparate pre-1841 census records into one searchable database. There are over 1400 surviving household or individual schedules from 1801, 1811, 1821, and 1831 in dozens of local archives across the UK. EBIC brings these various records into one searchable database. When the database is complete, it will likely contain information about approximately 750,000 households.

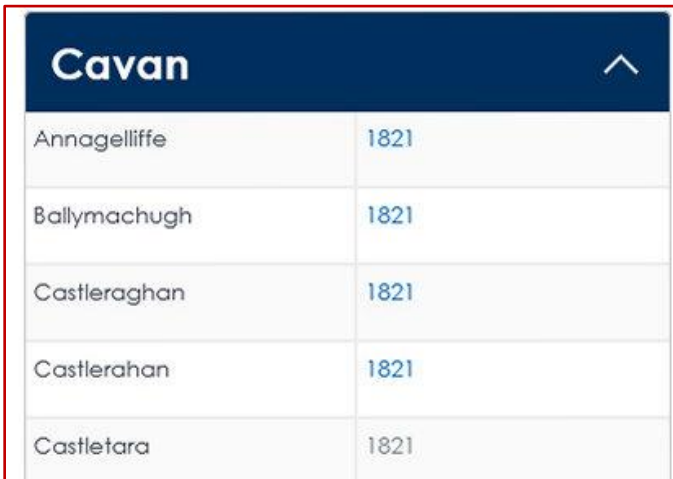
All information is extracted from digital images of original census records. Student researchers, under faculty supervision, consult the originals; extract parish, household, and individual data. If a digital image is available for the record, the location is noted in the result.

You can browse by country and county to see what parishes and censuses have been completed.

1. From the BYU: Early British and Irish Census page, click **Browse**.
2. Click **Browse Irish Counties**.



3. Click on the dropdown arrow for Cavan.



The census records that exist are listed. Those that have been indexed have a link. Those that are greyed out still need to be indexed and added to the database.

4. To the right of Annagelliffe click **1821**. The parish information will appear with a list of names.

Parish Information

Annagelliffe

Country:	Ireland
County:	Cavan
Census Year:	1821
Printed/Freeform:	Freeform

Location/Reference # of Original Document:
1821 Census of Annagelliffe, Cavan, Ireland.

Household Information

Head of Household (Last, First)

Search by household name

Armstrong, Samuel
Banahan, James
Bannon, Bartley
Baxter, Pat

Individual Information

Individual Name (Last, First)

Search by individual name

Anne
Judith
Anderson, Marth
Armstrong, Bridgt
Armstrong, Cathe

5. Click on a Household name.

Household

Household Information

House Place: Gornaglaragh
Additional info: 7 1/2 acres.
"present Name Oldtown"
Location: Annagelliffe, Cavan
Census Year: 1821
Household Members:

Armstrong, Samuel
Armstrong, Ellinor
Armstrong, Wm
Armstrong, Cathe
Armstrong, Pat

To learn more you can watch the "Early British and Ireland Census Project" video on YouTube.

https://youtu.be/JCY2eS_efMU?si=bq38faM4LmTk9_wJ

Winter Celebration Photos

The November issue is a mix of Remembrance Day and a variety of winter celebrations including Diwali, Feast of Saint Nicholas, Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Feast of the Seven Fishes, Christmas, and Kwanzaa and many others. We asked members of our group to share a favourite holiday photo. You can also check out the display at the Maple Ridge Library.



John and Elsie (Campbell) Fleming enjoying Christmas dinner with family circa 1983.

COLLECTION OF CATHY FLEMING MAGEE



Santa's Reindeer.

COLLECTION OF GINA LEIGH



COLLECTION OF ROSLYN MELLISH



My mum took the pic of us 4 (brother, Dad, Twink the cat & me) all in our night wear. She wouldn't join us! 1950s.

COLLECTION OF M. DIANE ROGERS



Ridge Meadows Baseball Association.
MAPLE RIDGE MUSEUM & COMMUNITY ARCHIVES, IMAGE P02642

Down the Research Rabbit Hole

Editor Brenda L. Smith



Share the stories of your discoveries off the beaten track.

def. a rabbit hole currently connotes “a time-consuming distraction of one’s attention as happens when clicking through online links, following social media posts, or pursuing information.”

dictionary.com

You are invited to share your rabbit hole experiences. This is a safe space for you to confess your whims, because we have all been lost in the rabbit warren. And we especially welcome hearing about the amazing finds you make on these journeys.

Experienced researcher Maureen Cruise is as vulnerable to the lure of the rabbit hold as the newest newbie family historian. Join her on this exploration.

Biden Family Information

By Maureen Cruise

I started digging around for this name on 14 April 2025, because the book I was indexing for the British Columbia Genealogical Society made reference to a Barry Biden.

I went to Magee High School in Vancouver as part of the experimental group of 100 students from Grade IX at Point Grey Junior High School — we were ‘babies’ at the high school. I was okay with this as my aunt Evelyn Cruise was the librarian there, and I had been borrowing books from the high school for several years (books my aunt thought I could understand).

Barry Biden was two years ahead of me, being in Grade XI, and we became friends, probably through some interest in the school plays or musical productions. He introduced me to opera and classical music, while all my friends were into Elvis.

The name Barry Biden in the book *We Stand on Guard for Thee* by Leslie Hempshall made me stop and take note. Hempshall was born in Vancouver, joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in August 1941, later took part in 200+ sorties supplying the Allied armies as they drove enemy forces out of Burma.

Barry Biden was cited as providing the “cover design” (a twin engine plane coming in to land with dense trees in the foreground). In his acknowledgements, Hempshall wrote: “I express my thanks to Barry

Biden, a business associate and friend of many years who has always been generous with his assistance in the technical aspects of book publishing and computer use.”

I admit to not having thought about Barry Biden for decades. I Googled his name and up came the Dignity Memorial obituary information: “Barry Douglas Biden, June 1, 1938 – December 8, 2022. Barry Douglas Biden, age 84, of Abbotsford, British Columbia passed away on Thursday, December 8, 2022.” The only message on their site was from Penny and Bob Hanuszak (friend) dated 12/16/2022 – “I’m so happy I had the opportunity to work with Barry on our Strata Council and meet him as a neighbor in our community. I always learned something from him, and enjoyed his humour. Barry was always fun, had a cheery smile and a wave every time we passed. Our condolences to Rhoda and family, Barry will be missed.”

No confirming photo, no other information.

I looked at the BC Archives Vital Events Index for BIDEN — there are nine entries, one with no death registration information.

But there were some entries with information, and one family residing at 3988 West 31st Avenue, Vancouver. But the 3900-block of West 31st is out near the University of BC campus, and the marriage of James Wendell Biden to Eleanor Helen Kuliak took place on 25 June 1943. Not likely to be Barry’s parents. Both James Wendell and Eleanor Helen have died, but no one named Barry was named as informant.

There was another Biden, Allan Russell Biden, born 16 August 1924 in Wolseley, Saskatchewan, who married Helen Swetitch, but again no informant matching the Barry I was looking for. Interestingly, both James Wendell Biden and Allan Russell Biden were born in Wolseley, Saskatchewan. But the names of their fathers were different:

James Wendell Biden’s father was James Arthur Biden, also born in Ontario (per marriage info). Allan Russell Biden’s father was Russell James Biden, born in Ontario. Perhaps J W Biden and A R Biden were cousins who left Ontario for Wolseley Saskatchewan, and ended up in BC.

I was temporarily stuck. Then I went back, re-read the obit for Barry, and decided to Google “Rhoda Biden”. Scrolling down, I came to Mary Biden:

BIDEN – Mary Eleanor (Nell) passed away peacefully on February 10, 2004, at the age of 91. Mary was born on May 4, 1912 in Vancouver, BC. She is predeceased by her husband Louis. She will be lovingly remembered by her son Barry (Rhoda); daughter Julia (Jerry) Kruz; four grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. A celebration of her life will be held on Sunday, February 15, 2004 from 12:00 until 3:00 PM, at The Crescent, 3500 – 144th Street, Surrey, BC.

Back to the names I had collected from the BC Archives:

*DEATH 09 February 1991, age 85, at VGH
BIDEN, Louis, engineer
Born: 12 January 1906 in Italy
Residence: 604 – 2095 Beach Avenue, Vancouver
Died of heart attack (30 minutes)
Wife: Mary E _____
Father: Joseph Biden, born in Italy; Mother: Lucia Scodeller, born in Italy
Certificate signed by Dr. R. S. Purkis, 650 W 41st Ave, Ste 203*

All the other Bidens could now be eliminated. Perhaps one of Mary (Nell)'s grandchildren was born to Barry and Rhoda Biden? Or are all three of the children of Julia (Biden) and Jerry Kruz? And now the Italian heritage of dark hair, eyes and skin of the Barry I knew can be remembered. Curious that Julia's married name Kruz sounds the same as mine.

And only this last Google search for Rhoda made me realize that the former President of the United States had the same surname!

Then I looked up Jerry Kruz, and fell down a rabbit hole! He wrote/writes for the Georgia Strait, lived at the Peace House (see the Eve Lazarus story), has written a book on rock music posters, operated a coffee house 'the Afterthought'. I am climbing out of the rabbit hole – did I miss all this by leaving Vancouver in 1963 for Toronto, London, Europe, Toronto, Bermuda, Toronto again, before returning to Vancouver in 1999?

Other unrelated Bidens:

*MARRIAGE 25 June 1943, by licence
BIDEN, James Wendell, tool grinder for neon products
Bachelor, 29, United Church, Canadian, of the Irish race*

*Residence: 2855 West 30th Avenue, Vancouver, born in Wolseley, Saskatchewan
Father: James Arthur Biden, born in Ontario; Mother: Susan Morgan, born in Ontario*

to

*KULIAK, Eleanor Helen, registered nurse,
Spinster, __, United Church, Romanian
Residence: 1306 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, born in Watrous, Saskatchewan
Father: Peter Kuliak, born in Romania; Mother: Irene Malynyk, born in Manitoba*

*DEATH 16 August 1980, age 68, at UBC extended care hospital
BIDEN, James Wendell, sales representative
Born: 02 July 1912, Wolseley, Saskatchewan
Residence: 3988 West 31st Avenue, Vancouver
Died of pneumonia (4 days); atherosclerotic cerebrovascular disease (years)
Cites his wife, father, and unknown everything else
Info re his full name: Amended by M. Thornburn Aug 25/80*

*DEATH 24 January 1996
BIDEN, Eleanor Helen, housewife, worked as nurse medical/dental
Born: 09 September 1920, Watrous, Saskatchewan
Residence: #105 – 1155 West 11th Ave, Vancouver (house? or VGH?)
Died of CVA (1 minute); ovarian cancer – terminal, breast cancer
Info provided by daughter Susanne Biden, 893 Swan St., Victoria, BC*

*DEATH 29 January 1987, age 62, at Royal Columbia Hospital
BIDEN, Allan Russell, nurse at Woodlands Hospital, retired
Born: 16 August 1924, Wolseley, Saskatchewan
Residence: #231 – 201 Cayer Street, Coquitlam
Died of coronary thrombosis, moderate atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease
Wife: Helen Swetitch
Father: Russell James Biden, born in Ontario; Mother: Emma Houston, born in Ontario*

Work in Progress

Editor Brenda L. Smith



Report your research undertakings here!

We want to hear about your research projects as they happen. Since we hear from people who discover information in our newsletters, you can take this opportunity to reach out to the world.

Erica's Collateral Lines

Erica Williams is a member of Maple Ridge Family History Group. She researches her English family and is currently expanding her work beyond direct ancestors by researching collateral lines.

Background

I have been exploring my mother's ancestors. I worked back from my maternal Grandfather Edward John Amos 1880 to 1952, to the limit of available records. There are generous parish and census records available for this family that started out in Kent and generally stayed in the Home Counties.

Goal

I want to follow the descendants of that farthest ancestor to develop records of the collateral family groups.

So far...

I have taken my direct Amos line back to the early 1600s. Then I have followed my Great Great Great Grandfather Edward Amos 1772 to 1843, compiling records for his wife Mary Elliot and their eight children. I have sketched the siblings forward. Of the eight, one died in infancy. Six children are sketched and waiting review. I have detailed Thomas's family into the early 1900s.

Next steps...

When I have a clear picture of Thomas's descendants, I plan to review the work, looking for newly available records, and update my timelines.

Stir The Pot: January Newsletter

<https://heritagebc.ca/events-activities/heritage-week/>



The 2026 BC Heritage Week falls February 16 to 22, 2026. The theme is *Stir the Pot*—food and its connection to culture and community, traditions, families and ancestors. In the spirit of food and how it evokes connection to us and our family history, the Maple Ridge Family History Group invites readers to contribute 1 or 2 paragraphs to feature in the January/February 2026 newsletter. Emails can be sent to mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com by December 15.

Subjects could include:

- a childhood flavour
- learning to make a family dish
- a guilty pleasure shared
- a table tradition
- a cooking disaster

An example by Gina Leigh

When I was 14 my family travelled to Italy where we stayed with my grandparents on their farm for 3 months. Two large fig trees grew in the yard, and in August the figs were ripe and ready to be plucked and eaten. My first taste of fresh figs.

Some years ago I planted a fig tree in a large pot – figs planted in the ground can be massive. This year was my biggest crop (only about 40 figs), ripening, a few at a time. Because I eat fresh figs infrequently, when I see my figs and bite into those luscious fruits, I'm reminded of that wonderful summer with my family, my grandparents and aunts and uncles and cousins.

Library and Archives Canada

<https://ogs.on.ca/webinar-submissions/>

If you have a Library and Archives Canada (LAC) account for archival orders, bookmark records in Collection search, register for events, and contributions to Co-Lab, a new authentication service was implemented effective September 24, 2025.

You will need a login to access certain record collections.

To secure its users' accounts LAC deployed a new authentication solution that works with an Interac® login partner or GCKey for certain online services.

Your current accounts and files will not be affected; only the method used to authenticate you will change.

This change will bring their online services in line with the Government of Canada's cybersecurity standards, while providing a simplified and more secure login experience.

Staff Cuts at LAC

www.anglocelticconnections.ca/2025/08/30/a-shift-at-lac-staff-cuts/

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is undergoing a significant workforce adjustment, with 70 indeterminate positions being eliminated. This follows earlier measures, including the termination of 90 fixed-term contracts on 31 March. The news, announced via internal email, affects all sectors of the organization. These reductions will likely impact LAC's operations and services.

Dos and Don'ts of Find a Grave


<https://familytreemagazine.com/cemeteries/the-dos-and-donts-of-find-a-grave/>

Family Tree has published a very thoughtful post by Daniel Loftus about the dos and don'ts of using Find A Grave.

We would add an additional Do.

Ask for Permission to Use a photo

Photos on Find a Grave are submitted by contributors and thus the copyright for the photo resides with the photographer. Contact the contributor directly to request permission to use the photo. If you receive permission to use a photo, add the source of the photo in the caption area so that there is proper credit given.



Nova Scotia Genealogy Virtual Conference May 2-3, 2026


Call for Presentations

We are looking for Nova Scotian family history stories or research tips, to be presented at the 2026 Nova Scotia Genealogy Virtual Conference.

Have you made a breakthrough using an interesting record source? Found an intriguing discovery, a DNA story, or a "lesson learned" that others could benefit from? We want to hear about it!

Presentation Details:

- Via Zoom, to be 30-60 minutes long
- Should be primarily Nova Scotian content
- Presenters receive \$50 & free conference access
- Deadline: December 1, 2025, 12pm AST



Fill out a submission form: <https://rb.gy/w2dl3s>

Further conference details to be released in early 2026 at nsgenconference.ca

Ontario Ancestors Call for Speakers

Ontario Ancestors Virtual Conference 2026



Ontario Ancestors is currently accepting proposals for its 2026 Virtual Conference: From Steamships to Microchips to be held June 12-14, 2026.

Deadline for Submissions: Monday, December 1st 2025.

For more information and to submit a proposal visit our [Conference Speaker Submission Page](#)

Ontario Ancestors is currently accepting proposals for its 2026 Virtual Conference: From Steamships to Microchips to be held June 12-14, 2026.

They will be running two streams over the course of two days: one for 'Microchips': Artificial Intelligence and other technology and the other for 'Steamships': Immigration and Transportation.

In following with their two themes, they welcome proposals that can enrich the knowledge of either or both of these interesting subjects. They are also open to submissions on other unique topics that would be of interest to family historians.

The presentations are to be 45-50 minutes in length with 10 minutes allowed for Q & A and given over the Zoom platform. They also ask that the speaker provide a handout of 3-5 pages for their session.

Research News

New on PRDH: marriages from 1862 to 1871

www.prdh-igd.com/en/home

All Catholic marriages celebrated in Quebec from 1862 through 1871 are now online at PRDH-IGD.com, adding more than 75,000 records to the database.

Of the 150,000 spouses mentioned in these marriages, over 85% have been integrated into the PRDH family reconstructions. They now each have their own family file, in addition to appearing in their parents' file.

Railway Work, Life & Death Project

www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk/the-accidents/

An initiative to find out about railway worker accidents in Britain and Ireland from the late 1880s to 1939. Their database, in the form of an Excel spreadsheet, is freely available.

It contains details of railway worker accidents investigated by the state (1900-15 and 1921-1939), applications to the Great Eastern Railway Benevolent Fund (1913-23) for assistance after an accident, and seven runs of data produced by the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants/ National Union of Railwaymen trade union between 1889 and 1920: legal cases (1901-1905), death claims, disablement claims, fatal and non-fatal compensation, the orphan fund and representation at coroner's inquests.

Food History in BC Historical Journals

<https://bcfoodhistory.ca/food-history-in-bc-historical-journals/>

The BC Food History Network has updated its annotated bibliographies of *BC Studies*, *British Columbia History*, and *Okanagan History*.

The BC Food History Network is focused on the history of food, focusing on BC and Western Canada. They take a broad view of food history as encompassing food sources, food production, and food transformation, the associated cultural, economic, environmental, and sociological aspects of food, and individuals and groups who have made a significant historical contribution related to food.

FamilySearch Full-Text Search

www.familysearch.org/en/search/full-text/

FamilySearch has moved Full-Text Search from FamilySearch Labs into its standard search tools. Full-Text Search is now available from the main Search menu under Full Text. Users can also access the tool through the all-collections search.

New Brunswick Land Grants

<https://archives.gnb.ca/en-ca/land-grants>

The New Brunswick Land Grants web section contains information on more than 55,000 individuals and corporate bodies who acquired Crown land between 1784 and 2007.

Ontario Land Records Index

<https://archive.org/details/ontariolandrecordsindex>

The Ontario Land Records Index (OLRI) is available on Internet Archive. The OLRI was compiled over five years and published by the Archives of Ontario in 1979. The OLRI is an index to those settlers who were allocated Crown land in Upper Canada/Canada West/Ontario. Its coverage ranges from the earliest grants of the 1780s, to acquisitions administered by the Canada Company and Peter Robinson, to grants for military service in the Fenian Raids and South African War in the 20th century.

The OGS Huguenot Collection

<https://ogs.on.ca/the-ogs-huguenot-collection/>

When the Huguenot Society of Canada closed in 2003, they donated their collection to The Ontario Genealogical Society. It contains applications from Huguenot descendants made to the Huguenot Society as well as files containing indices of names and brief family histories. The collection contains 1,050 individual files and a total of 4,489 digitized records.

RBCM: Index to BC Divorces, 1901–1977

<https://search-bcarchives.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/indexes-to-divorce-orders>

The series consists of indexes to copies of divorce orders submitted to the BC Division of Vital Statistics and its predecessor, the Vital Statistics Branch. The indexes are computer printouts arranged alphabetically by surname of husband. Prior to 1976 the indexes cover groups of years. From 1977 to 1983 they are annual.

Digitized Toronto City Directories

www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/history-genealogy/lh-digital-city-directories.jsp

The Toronto Public Library has made their collection of Toronto city directories available online from 1833 to 2001 through links to their Digital Archive or the Internet Archive. Not all years are available.

Newspapers.com adds Canadian Newspapers

<https://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=46294>

Newspapers.com have added newspapers from Nova Scotia, Ontario, and British Columbia for their subscribers.

Family History Events

Campbell River Genealogy Society

www.crgenealogysociety.ca

- **Every Scrap Tells a Story: Practical Genealogy Research with the Genealogical Proof Standard** with Eva Holmes, November 8, 2025, 10:00 AM (PDT), via Zoom. Fee: \$10.

Chilliwack FVRL

www.fvrl.bc.ca/events/12012

- **Remembrance Day Presentation: The History of CFB Chilliwack** with Darren Kennedy, November 5, 2025, 2:00 to 3:30 PM (PDT).

Kelowna & District Genealogical Society

www.KDGS.ca

Fees: Free for KDGS members; \$10 CDN for non-members

- **Every Source Matters** with Dave Obee, November 3, 2025, 7:00 PM (PDT) via Zoom.
- **Prison & Court Records** with Andrea Lister, January 5, 2026, 7:00 PM (PDT) via Zoom.

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

<https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars/>

- **Finding your family's footprints in Ireland** with Maggie Gaffney, November 4, 2025, 5:00 PM (PDT).
- **Researching Your [USA] Colonial War Ancestors** with Michael L. Strauss, MA, AG®, AGL™, November 12, 2025, 5:00 PM (PDT).
- **University Archives in México: Manuscripts, Photos, and Theses, Oh my!** with Lisa Medina, November 21, 2025, 11:00 AM (PDT).

Ontario Ancestors Webinars

<https://ogs.on.ca/2025-webinar-lineup/>

- **Invaded! The Fenian Raids and the Canadian Response** with Kathryn Lake Hogan, November 6, 2025, 7:00 PM (EST). Online. Free.
- **How To Get Children Involved In Family Research** with Becky Villareal, December 4, 2025, 7:00 PM (EST). Online. Free.

Strathcona County Public Library

<https://scl.bibliocommons.com/v2/events>

Pre-registration required.

- **Frontline Lifelines: No.1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station** with Nigel Lloyd and Sheila Dohoo Faure, Thursday, January 6, 2025, 6:30 PM (MST), Online. Free.
- **Family Tree Trackers: What's a One-Name Study?** with M. Diane Rogers, Thursday, November 13, 2025, 7:00 PM (MST), Online.

Surrey Libraries

www.surreylibraries.ca/services/family-history

Free. Registration required. Cloverdale.

- **Writing Your Family History Story** with Brenda Jones, Thursday, November 6, 2025, 2:00 to 4:00 PM (PDT) Cloverdale Branch
- **Family History Orientation**, Monday, November 24, 2025, 6:00 to 7:00 PM (PST); Saturdays, December 20, 2025, 10:30 to 11:30 AM (PST).
- **Fun Family History Friday**, Fridays, October 31, November 28, 2025, 2:30 to 3:30 PM (PDT).

- **Family History DNA Chat**, Friday, November 14, December 12, 2025, 2:30 to 3:30 PM (PDT).

The Family History Group is a standing committee of the Maple Ridge Historical Society and we encourage, but do not require, that our members join the society.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month, 7pm on Zoom until further notice. Email us at: mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com for information on how to join the meeting.



November 5, 2025: Lest We Forget Throughout history there have been wars/conflicts somewhere in the world. An overwhelming number of men and women lost their lives or returned home to face a much changed life. Chances are you have an ancestor who served in the military or in some other capacity in one of these wars. We need to honour all those who served, "Lest We Forget". Share their story.

December 3, 2025: AI: Deciphering the Hype: Is it Useful for Genealogists or Corporations? with Darren Durupt & Andrea Lister. Daily, we are bombarded with marketing about AI but what is it and how does it work? Is it useful for genealogy or is it just useful for corporations? What should we be concerned about? Can we use it ethically?

Have something to share? There's always time to hear about an exciting new find or an interesting family story.